

YELLOW FARMHOUSE

EDUCATION CENTER

February 23, 2023
Appropriations Committee

RE: H.B. No. 6659 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

Dear Senator Hartley, Representative Gibson, and Connecticut General Assembly members of
the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Laura Jackson and I am the Director of Outreach for the Yellow Farmhouse
Education Center, a nonprofit organization in Stonington. Our mission is to connect people to
each other and to where their food comes from through food and farm-based education.

We were fortunate enough to receive a CT Grown for CT Kids grant in 2022 to make a more
direct connection between agriculture and culinary education in Connecticut. With these funds,
we've facilitated free monthly workshops for Family & Consumer Science teachers that feature
Connecticut farmers and food producers. We've also offered low-cost, in-person workshops
where teachers get out on the farm, harvest fresh vegetables, and prepare seasonal meals.
This is a population of educators who are often overlooked by districts, but their subject is
among the most popular in our secondary schools.

Young people in Connecticut today are less connected than ever to our agricultural and food
systems. By enrolling in culinary classes in droves, they are demonstrating that they are
interested in learning practical skills to take care of themselves and their families in the future as
well as skills that can transfer into a career in our state's hospitality or restaurant industries

With respect to the proposed budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, concerning the Department
of Agriculture, I ask for your support in funding the CT Grown for CT Kids Grants Program with
an appropriation of 1 million dollars annually. It is an investment in the next generation of food
citizens whose eating and consumer habits will impact their personal health and our local
economy.

Thank you,

Laura Jackson

